OGMCOAL - Crandall Canyon: Iron Issue/Clean-up

From:

Steve Christensen

To:

Daron Haddock; Dave Shaver; Ingrid Wieser; Jim Smith

Date:

11/30/2009 3:13 PM

Subject: Crandall Canyon: Iron Issue/Clean-up

CC:

OGMCOAL

Hi Dave,

Ingrid Weiser and I have discussed several times the iron deposits in Crandall Creek relative to what happened at West Ridge with the coal fines. Missing from the current Crandall Canyon iron issue has been any discussion as to whether or not the iron deposits should be removed from the channel itself.

I'm not suggesting we open that can of worms with the current permitting action we have on the table. However, Ingrid and I would be more comfortable if you could put a commitment in the plan (within the proposed Maelstrom unit amendment) to develop a clean-up/mitigation plan once access of the site is possible.

At this point, we're not advocating any specific measure be implemented or even suggesting that clean-up is even necessary. As the Crandall Creek situation is much different than the West Ridge situation, the best approach may very well be to leave the material undisturbed. At this point, Ingrid and I are looking for a commitment that we'll go cut to the site in 2010, with the Forest Service and other regulatory agencies and discuss what, if anything, should be done with the accumulated iron in the channel. In this way, the issue has been explicitly addressed in the MRP and we'll have a game-plan for discussing the issue in spring/summer 2010.

R645-301-333, -750: The Pern Littee must provide a commitment to perform an on-site inspection of the Crandall Creek drainage with the appropriate regulatory agencies once access to the site is possible (late spring/early summer 2010). The jurpose of the inspection will be to assess the extent of the total iron accumulations within Crandall Creek. Following the site-visit, the Division (in consultation with the Permittee and other regulatory agencies) will make a determination as to what clean-up measures, if any, should be taken to remove the total iron accumulations from the stream channel.

Give myself (801) 538-5000 or Ingrid (801) 538-5318 a call and we can discuss it.

Thanks, Steve